

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting

28 Nov 2007  
Oakridge, OR  
6:30 PM

Present: Eve Montanaro, Don Hampton, Barbara Hazen, Chuck Davis, Nancy Sawtelle, Kelly Reis, Pat Burns, Sean Stewart, Chuck Spies, Jenny Getty, Gregg Vollstedt, Jerold Williams, D'Lynn Williams, Fergus McLean, Eric Haws, Gail Haws, Lynn Armstrong, Aryana Ferguson, Holly LeMasurier, Jenny Gusset, Mavis Pas

I. Welcome and Introductions – Ms Montanaro

II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda - Ms Montanaro  
The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Approve 19 Sept 2007 General Council Meeting Minutes – Ms Montanaro  
The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements - Ms Montanaro

- Mr McLean said that he had a map and other materials regarding the BLM's WOPR proposal for those who are interested. He encouraged people to send the BLM their comments on the proposal; public comments are due mid Jan 2008.
- Ms Reis stated that the American Fisheries Society is meeting in Portland in 2008. She suggested that the MFWWC should make a presentation in the Education and Outreach part of the meeting.
- Ms Reis said that ODFW has a public process regarding the state's angling regulations. Spring 2008 will be when they are looking for public input.
- Ms Reis also said that ODFW put juvenile bull trout into Swift and Bear Creeks. They'll be monitoring the survival of these fish. Three confirmed bull trout reds were seen above the reservoir.
- Mr Stewart said that the Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site will be open on weekends only. It is an interesting site; it has a water powered mill and interesting water rights. It also has its own website in the Oregon Parks website.
- Ms Ferguson said that there are 3 plantings coming up; 2 dates are set, one is still to be arranged. On Jan 19 there will be a tree planting at the Nelson Creek site. On Jan 26 there will be a planting at the Lost Creek Confluence project. We have 4100 trees to plant there. There is a contractor available to help if the volunteers don't get them all in.
- Ms Montanaro said that a Boise, ID company has made a proposal to construct a hydro electric generating system on the Fall Creek dam. There will be a public forum on December 5 in the Lowell Fire Hall from 6 to 8 PM. The Army Corps is not part of this project. Ms Reis said that ODFW would be writing comments.

V. Working with Landowners to Create Oregon Chub Habitat – Ms Montanaro

Oregon has an Oregon Chub Recovery Plan. The goal is to establish 10 populations of 500 plus adults over 3 basins. The Haws discovered that they have a pond on their property with 126 plus chub in it. Together with the MFWWC and ODFW, they put in a grant to build another pond to facilitate expansion of this population. It took over a year and a half for the project to come

together. There are a lot of regulations – local, state and federal - that have to be complied with before the project can break ground. Ms Montanaro helped the Haws with the permitting process, getting bids and the grant application. The pond was dug this summer. The planting of vegetation both inside and outside the pond has begun. The fish won't be transported to their new home until the vegetation is established and they are sure that the water levels will be maintained. Native aquatic vegetation proved to be hard to find. Tree plantings and a tour are still to be arranged.

VI. Restoring a Riparian Forest at the Confluence of Lost Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette River – Ms Ferguson

Ms Ferguson showed maps detailing the complexity of the River and Creek at the site. She remarked that the water table is lower than it used to be prior to the dams as the River is down cutting. She showed several sloughs which work as flood water storage. With further plantings the storage capacity should increase. There are several kinds of invasives to get rid of including Reed canarygrass, Scots broom, blackberry, Canadian thistle and cherry trees. We will be planting black cottonwoods, shrub thickets, white oak, ponderosa pine, incense cedar and several more species. Ms Ferguson was asked if we would be planting red cedar. She said possibly but that the area really was too dry for it. We won't be planting grand fir due to the diseases this species is currently battling. The Northwest Youth Corps has done a lot of work on the project. Thurston High School students had a work party out there pulling Scots Broom and cutting ivy. She is having the Reed canarygrass, blackberry and Canadian thistle sprayed with herbicides. Irrigation of the new plantings will be a challenge as the amount of land to be irrigated will increase 7 fold over the amount we have done with the solar irrigation system in the past. It would be ideal to have a longer period of time for invasives management prior to planting. Ms Montanaro and Ms Ferguson considered trying to push the grant back a year but decided on management techniques such as mowings instead. Everyone is invited to assist in the plantings on Jan 26.

VII. Watershed Education for our Schools – Ms LeMasurier

Ms LeMasurier showed a video made in the first year of the program at Lundy Elementary School; each class makes a video. The program has expanded to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Oakridge and to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades in the Pleasant Hill schools. 132 children participated this year. The most important part of each unit is a list of guest speakers who come in and share their expertise and local knowledge and the outdoor project that the children do. On Dec 5, 16 teachers are coming for training in the watershed ranger program; the hope is to further expand the program. One of the goals is to fit into whatever the teacher is already doing. Ms Lemasurier does teach some of the lessons. There are opportunities to volunteer with the program in both the classroom and the projects. Contact Ms Montanaro or LeMasurier if you want to volunteer.

VIII. Next Meeting

16 January 2008

Lowell, OR

6:30-8:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:00PM.

Barbara Hazen  
Recorder